

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 7-10 and 17-20 are withdrawn. Claims 1-6, 8-16, and 18-20 are amended. Claims 1 and 11 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Foreign Priority Claim

The Examiner has not acknowledged the Applicants' claim for foreign priority. Clarification is respectfully requested in the next official communications.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the reference supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 9, 2004, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form filed therewith.

Drawings

The Examiner has not indicated whether or not the drawings have been accepted. Clarification is respectfully requested in the next official communications.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has withdrawn claims 7-10 and 17-20 and has made the Restriction Requirement final. Claims 7-10 and 17-20 remain pending. Independent claims 1 and 11 are believed to be generic. Assuming independent claims 1 and 11 are found to be allowable, all claims depending therefrom should also be in condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Specification

Paragraphs [0033], [0038], [0044], [0046], and [0069] of the specification have been revised merely to correct typographical errors. No new matter is entered.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-5 and 11-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bunya et al. (U.S. 6,752,711) in view of Sanchez et al. (U.S. 2004/0263324); and

Claims 6 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bunya et al. in view of Sanchez et al., in view of Delaporte et al. (U.S. 6,672,150).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a mounting structure of a tire sensing system including *inter alia*

the air pressure sensor having an end portion extending outwardly from opposite sides of the air pressure sensor, and at least one of the end portions having a hole for accommodating a rivet, the rivet connecting the air pressure sensor to the wheel.

In addition, independent claim 11 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a mounting structure of a tire sensing system including *inter alia*

the air pressure sensor having an end portion extending outwardly from a side of the air pressure sensor in a direction parallel to upper and lower surfaces of the air pressure sensor, and the end portion being connected to the wheel by a rivet.

Support for the novel features of claims 1 and 11 can be seen, for example, in FIGS. 2-4, 7, 8, 9(a), 9(b), and 10.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 11 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Bunya et al., Sanchez et al., and Delaporte et al.

In contrast to the present invention, Bunya et al. (*see* FIGS. 2 and 3, for example) merely disclose a sensor 41 mounted to the rim via a nut 57 at the center of the sensor 41; Sanchez et al. (*see* FIG. 4, for example) merely disclose a sensor housing 12 connected to the wheel by nipple 14; and Delaporte et al. (*see* FIGS. 1-4, for example) is silent about an end portion extending outwardly from a side of the air pressure sensor in a direction parallel to upper and lower surfaces of the air pressure sensor, and the end portion being connected to the wheel by a rivet.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 11 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Bunya et al., Sanchez et al., and Delaporte et al.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 2-6, 8-10, 12-16, and 18-20 have been amended to set forth additional novel features of the present invention, as well as to place them in better form.

For example, dependent claims 2 and 12 now recite *inter alia*

a recessed portion having a shape recessed toward the hub portion is provided, the recessed portion extending into a radially outward end of one of the spoke portions, and the air pressure sensor is placed in the recessed portion.

No combination of the cited references teaches or suggests the features as set forth in dependent claims 2 and 12.

Accordingly, all dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 of the present application are in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

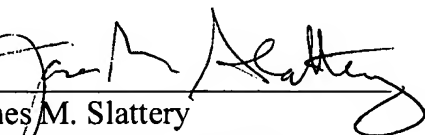
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

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